**KAA MONTHLY MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**December 11, 2015**

**Location:** Bruce Norlund’s Home

**Present**: Jim & Phinie Faux, Carol Littleton, Bruce Norlund, Angel & Suzanne Rosario, Robert Taylor

**Secretary’s Report**:

* The Secretary’s minutes were accepted as written.

**Treasurer’s Report**:

* Bob reported the club’s balance was $1,443.

**Upcoming Events:**

* *Stay tuned for* possible on-the-fly future club observing sessions. Notifications with details will be by email from Bob if and when clear skies re-appear.
* The monthly observing for Saturday, 12/12 was cancelled due to the weather.
* Our next club meeting will be on January 15th at 7:00pm at Jim & Phinie’s home, 22 Pako Ave., in Keene.
* The January 16th scheduled observing session will be at the club observatory, weather permitting, and beginning at 7:00pm.
* The [Geminids](http://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/meteor-shower/geminids.html) will peak between December 13 and 14. A waxing crescent Moon (Moon's phase after a new Moon) will create good conditions for viewing the shower. Vermont and NH observers should try their luck right after sunset on December 13.
* [Comet Catalina](http://astronomy.com/observing/news/2015/12/spot-comet-catalina-this-weekend). Visible right now with your binocular. Think Venus, Spica, & Mars at 5am.

**Old Business:**

* Members’ Dues – Bob reported that the 2016 membership is currently: 15 paid, one dropped out, and six not paid as of today. Dues may be sent to: Robert Taylor, PO Box467, W. Drummerston, VT 05357.
* Observer’s Handbook – Bob indicated that the 2016 Editions have not been delivered to SoVerA as of Tuesday.
* Club “Welcome” brochure – Angel reformatted the new club brochure into a beautiful bifold for distribution at future club events and for potential new members. Excellent work Angel! ☺

**New Business:**

* Members’ observing report:
  + Carol spotted an awesome meteor just by chance!
  + Bob did some neat sky gazing in Alaska.
* Dublin Observatory – Jim will contact Ian Jamieson about making contact at the [Perkin Observatory](http://www.dublinschool.org/astro) at the Dublin School in January.
* Outreach Inquiries:
  + Sister Maria Rosaria of the Federation of North American Explorers and several of her explorers plan to observe with us on January 16th.
  + Al Stoops would like to observe with us next time.
* Keene Library Lecture Series – Jim will contact Gail regarding the upcoming Library’s astronomy lecture series.
* MRHS – Julie would like to have an observing session for her Monadnock Regional HS astronomy class during the first half of January. Stay tuned for details!
* Donation - Jim and Phinie made a donation of $46.68 for another year of Internet server space from Polurnet for our club website.
* Donated telescope – Bob discussed options for the recently donated 4½ inch Tasco reflector telescope with two .96in eyepieces. It’s not one we would use other than for equipment training.

**Meeting Activities:**

* **Astronomical League's Constellation Hunter Program by Angel/Carol:** Angel was in the true Christmas spirit and did not ask us to take our monthly quizzes for the month’s constellations: Andromeda, Cassiopeia, and Pisces. Our new constellations for December are: Aries, Perseus, and Triangulum. The club members are very appreciative of Angel’s generosity tonight and his continuing efforts in encouraging us to learn more about the northern constellations. He passed out a complete manual on all the 39 northern constellations for our continued use in 2016. Angel indicated he would be providing us with materials for us to learn more about the details of the surface of our moon.
* **Discussion on all things astronomical:** 
  + **Reflector –** Bob mentioned that he knew the author of the “Chasing Jupiter’s Shadow”, a neat home experiment using a sundial. Check the December issue.
  + **Ceres –** Carol and others discussed the[current theory](http://www.skyandtelescope.com/astronomy-news/bright-spots-on-ceres-mystery-solved-121020158/) as to the bright spots on Ceres.
  + **SoVerA Threads –** 
    - **Stonehenge -** Could one man have built [Stonehenge](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lRRDzFROMx0)? Learn about Wally Wallington and check [this](http://clonehenge.com/2009/02/02/wallingtons-stonehenge-forgotten-technology-in-michigan/).
    - **The Least Amount of Daylight = the Winter Solstice? -** Check out Sunrise and Sunset Times near the [Solstices](http://aa.usno.navy.mil/faq/docs/rs_solstices.php).

And many thanks to Bruce for providing the excellent refreshments tonight and Phinie for her classic lemon bars.

Jim Faux

December 12, 2015